

Application No. 09/622,615  
Response dated December 1, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2003

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed only on a surface that contacts with an electrolyte solution of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing cobalt together with at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium Ca, strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed only on a surface that contacts with an electrolyte solution of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 2, characterized in that said coating layer containing cobalt is

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heat-treated in the presence of alkali and oxygen.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, characterized in that said lanthanoid is at least one element selected from the group consisting of lanthanum La, cerium Ce, praseodymium Pr, neodymium Nd, europium Eu, and ytterbium Yb.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The sintered nicked electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, characterized in that an amount of said hydroxide in the coating layer is in the range of 0.5 to 5 wt% based on the total amount of all the applied materials which includes the active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide.

Claim 6 (canceled):

Claim 7 (canceled):

Claim 8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (canceled):

Claim 10 (canceled):

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Claim 11 (previously presented): An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1 is used as its positive electrode.

Claim 12 (canceled):

Claim 13 (canceled):

Claim 14 (canceled):

Claim 15 (canceled):

Claim 16 (canceled):

Claim 17 (canceled):

Claim 18 (canceled):

Claim 19 (canceled):

Claim 20 (canceled):

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Claim 21 (canceled):

Claim 22 (canceled):

Claim 23 (canceled):

Claim 24 (canceled):

Claim 25 (canceled):

Claim 26 (previously presented): An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 2 is used as its positive electrode.